COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Military Retirement Measures Recommended by Committee

Several measures concerning future military retirements have been recommended by the President's Cabinet Committee on Federal Staff Retirement Systems.

Many of the committee's recommendations are included in a Defense Department Force Management Study review now underway.

An analysis of the present retirement system was noted by the committee for review by DOD, including the following suggestions:

- 20-year retirement without regard to age or specialty, (1) at the member's option, or (2) involuntarily;
- Mandatory retirement at 26, 28, or 30 years of service without regard to age or specialty;
- Improved survivorship provisions covering death after retirement, and revision of the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan;
- A need for evaluation of the existing formula for computing Uniformed Services retired pay.

The committee said the Uniformed Services Retirement System as now constituted is an effective instrument in maintaining the youth and vitality of the armed forces, explaining the non-contributory nature of the present retirement system should be retained unchanged.

Distinguished Unit Emblem Awarded to 121st Aviation Co.

President Johnson has awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation to Army's 121st Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) and attached units, including an Air Force detachment, for extraordinary heroism in the RVN.

The citation authorizes members to wear the Distinguished Unit Emblem, a blue, gold-bordered, ribbon.

Unit members were cited for "indomitable courage and professional skill" Dec. 5, 1964, while providing direct support for an RVN ground operation in insurgent dominated territory.

Attached units receiving the award are: 2nd Medical Dispensary (General); 80th Transportation Detachment (Cargo Helicopter Field Maintenance); 82nd Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance); USAF Detachment 7 of the 30th Weather Squadron; 134th Medical Detachment; 6th Airlift Platoon; 5th Gunner Detachment; and 257th Signal Detachment.

READY FOR A WALK—Gemini 8 command pilot Neil A. Armstrong (right) answers questions at a recent press conference in Houston, Tex., as his co-pilot Maj. David R. Scott, USAF, looks on. Maj. Scott was to attempt a record "space walk" during the three-day mission which was to begin today. Plans also called for docking with an Agena vehicle during the flight. (UPI Photo)

Overseas Credit Union Plan Hailed by Congressmen

The new Defense Department directive approving Overseas Credit Unions has received praise from Congressional members of the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Chairman of the committee, Rep. Wright Patman, D.-Tex., author of the plan that provided the basis for the directive, hailed the move as going a long way towards solving one of the greatest problems facing the serviceman — adequate credit sources.

At a press conference in the Rayburn Building, Rep. Patman said he has requested DOD to organize a task force to conduct credit union organization clinics in Europe and the Far East.

He also suggested DOD, as well as the three Services, establish a credit union office to provide command support and guidance for credit unions.

The directive establishing Overseas Credit Unions also received praise from three members of the Committee who conducted an investigation of military credit conditions in Europe. The committeemen were Reps. Joseph G. Minish, D.-N.J., Frank Annunzio, D.-Ill., and Thomas C. McGrath Jr., D.-N.J.

Washington Memos

AUTHOR OF THE plan for establishing Overseas Credit Unions, Rep. Wright Patman, D.-Tex., has termed credit unions as "thrift institutions" that low-income servicemen have needed badly. The new DOD directive states, "Overseas credit unions organized by and for the Defense military and civilian personnel are to be recognized and assisted at all echelons as important morale and welfare resources."

IN A YEAR, according to Rep. Patman, servicemen have paid $50 million in excess interest rates. A case in point: a repossessed auto required the serviceman to pay 60-70 percent of the total value of the car.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has released casualty figures showing 2,491 U.S. military personnel killed in hostile action in the RVN from Jan. 1, 1961 through March 7, 1966. In addition, 606 deaths from other causes were recorded.

IN A RECENT message to all major Air Force commands, guidelines were published for computing aircrews' combat tours in Southeast Asia. Air Force directives spelling out the various criteria are now in process.

ARMY'S CORPS OF Engineers has issued regulations governing admission fees for recreational use of areas at 95 dam and reservoir projects in 24 states. Fees ranging from 50 cents to $7.00 for yearly permits to all Federal recreational areas are being charged in pursuance to Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

FOURTEEN U.S. MARINE Corps and Navy personnel completed a Redeye Weapon System Instructors course at Ft. Bliss, Tex. Two-week course, presented by General Dynamics Corp., uses live tracking on U-6, F-100, H-23 and B-57 aircraft.

ROLAND L. GUYOTTE JR., former Director of Programs, Management and Systems, MTMTS, has been appointed executive assistant and senior transportation advisor to the commander of MTMTS.

GUIDED MISSILE ESCORT ship USS Brooke (DEG-1) was commissioned March 12, at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash. Ship is named for Lt. John M. Brooke, USN, Civil War engineer who prepared armor and guns for ironclad Merrimac.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON SENT a bill to Congress, Feb. 28, authorizing Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Visitor Center in Washington. The Center will use exhibits, films, lectures and displays to orient visitors, particularly foreign and student groups, on the history and operations of the Federal Government.

SECRETARY OF NAVY announced reactivation of hospital ship USS Sanctuary (AH-17) March 9. Sanctuary will be second hospital ship reactivated, is scheduled for completion in late 1966.

SEARCH AND RESCUE units of the Third U.S. Coast Guard District, New York, took part in 8,918 missions during 1965, assisting 26,778 people and saving property valued at more than $257 million.

DR. F. JOACHIM WEYL has resigned as Chief Scientist, Office of Naval Research, to accept post of Special Assistant to President of National Academy of the Sciences. Resignation is effective April 1.

AIR UNIVERSITY, MAXWELL AFB, Ala., celebrated 20th anniversary March 11. Former Ambassador to NATO and Secretary of the Air Force Thomas K. Finletter addressed 300 civilian and military guests.

U.S. SERIES E SAVINGS Bonds offer distinct tax advantages to bondholders. Interest earned each year need not be reported as income until bonds reach maturity. If E Bonds are exchanged, as they mature, for H Bonds, income tax on accumulated interest is further deferred until the H Bonds reach maturity.

ARMY HAS SIMPLIFIED its method determining the effective date a reassigned member is dropped from the losing organization and picked up by the gaining one. Previous chart-computations required clerks to consider distances, temporary duty between assignments and delay enroute. New policy is in AR 330-12 changes.

TEMPORARY PROMOTION QUOTAS have been released to major Army commanders for March. Authorizations are for 86 E-9s; 328 E-8s; 618 E-7s; 918 E-6s; 5,838 E-5s; and 7,426 E-4s.

AIR UNIVERSITY, MAXWELL AFB, Ala., has announced appointment of Col. John R. East Jr. as Commander, Academic Instructor and Allied Officer School, effective March 1. He replaced Col. John H. M. Smith, who is retiring in May.

A BILL AUTHORIZING expenditure of $126 million in FY67 for the Coast Guard, has been sent from the House to Senate. This sum is some $23 million more than USCG asked for. It authorizes $63 million for ships, $29 million for aircraft and $34 million for shore facilities.

MEMORIAL WINDOW HONORING former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Thomas D. White, who died last December, will be installed in the nave of Washington National Cathedral. The White memorial window will be one of a series depicting vocations and the first to pay tribute to a military service in the cathedral.

ARMY'S 1ST LOGISTICAL Command has activated 68th Medical Group, Long Bien, RVN, to supervise Army medical service in III and IV Corps areas. Sister unit, 43rd Medical Group, supports all Army medical units in II Corps area.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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High Morale, No Shortage Of U.S. Nurses in RVN

There is no shortage of U.S. military nurses in RVN and their morale is extremely high, said recent returnee Lt. Col. Anna Mae Hays, Assistant Chief, Army Nurse Corps.

The services now have more than 275 nurses in RVN. Most are Army, assigned to larger medical facilities.

Five male Army nurses are assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and the 101st and 173rd Airborne Brigades each have a male nurse assigned. This is the first time Army has ever assigned nurses to organic medical units with major combat organizations.

Navy has 39 nurses, including 29 aboard the hospital ship USS Repose. Eight are at the Navy Support Activity Hospital, Saigon, and two are attached to the Medical Advisory Team, Rach Gia.

Air Force has 37 nurses, not counting flight nurses aboard aircraft evacuating patients to the United States. Twenty male nurses are at Air Force dispensaries with 17 female nurses assigned to the 12th Air Force Hospital, Cam Ranh Bay.

3 Officers Vie with Civilians For White House Fellowships

A captain and two majors are competing with 35 civilian finalists for one-year White House Fellowships beginning in September.

President Johnson is scheduled to announce the 16 winners March 29.

Among the finalists selected from 600 qualified applicants are Maj. Jack N. Merritt, 35, assigned to Army's Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel; Maj. John S. Pustay, 34, Air Force Academy, Colo.; and Capt. Richard L. O'Brien, 31, Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C.

White House Fellows work as special assistants in the executive branch for one year under a program established by the President in 1964. They also participate in an intensive educational program of the Brookings Institution before returning to their chosen careers.

Of those selected last year, four are assigned to the White House staff, one to the Vice President, and one to each of 10 Cabinet Officers.

Folding Aircraft Tire Developed for USAF

U.S. Air Force is designing an aircraft tire that will go flat.

It is an expandable sidewall folding tire which will deflate after take-off and inflate before the aircraft lands. B. F. Goodrich Co., Akron, Ohio, is developing it for Research and Technology Division's Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory, a division of the Air Force Systems Command.

TOP COMMANDERS MEET—VAdm. John J. Hyland, USN (left), Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet, talks with Gen. William C. Westmoreland, USA, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. The admiral was on an inspection tour in Saigon when he met the general. Gen. Westmoreland has his left arm in a sling due to a minor injury.

Civilian Cooperation Helps U.S. in RVN

Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade is inflicting greater enemy casualties and uncovering larger caches of enemy supplies because of extensive civilian cooperation.

This was revealed by Brig. Gen. Ellis W. Williamson, 173rd commander, shortly after his return for assignment as assistant commandant, Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga.

General Williamson spoke of actions ranging mostly in the Saigon area, although major engagements were fought in other areas since the 173rd arrived in May 1965. In one action some 600 enemy were killed. Another engagement claimed 400 enemy dead.

Once committed to action, the 173rd roamed the jungles searching for targets with very little civilian assistance and found nothing, he said.

This has changed, the general noted, explaining that 80 percent of all enemy supplies captured in recent months resulted from information volunteered by civilians.

Pt. Mugu Holds 213 Programs

Seven government agencies conducted 213 programs on Navy's Pacific Missile Range, Point Mugu, Calif., during the first half of FY66.

The Navy sponsored 111, or 52.3 percent, of the programs and Air Force sponsored 50. The rest were conducted for NASA, DOD, Atomic Energy Commission, Army and the Pacific Missile Range itself.

120 Boats Given ROK Army

One hundred and twenty U.S. Army assault boats for the First Republic of Korea Army arrived at Pusan Feb. 25 aboard the SS Muskigan.

The 16-foot plastic boats, used primarily for river crossings, were turned over to the Korean Army Engineer Base Command. They will replace assault boats lost or damaged during rescue operations in last year's floods.

Shoulder-Fired AT Weapon Being Developed for Army

The Army has chosen McDonnell Aircraft Corp., St. Louis, Mo., to develop a shoulder-fired, medium antitank assault weapon system (MAW) for the infantry.

A $485,000 contract was awarded to McDonnell to carry out the development. The weapon will be automatically guided to its target, following the gunner's line of sight.

AUSA to Honor 100 NCOs

The Association of the U.S. Army plans to choose 100 Army senior NCOs serving in the Republic of Vietnam for honorary membership.

In a letter to Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, an AUSA spokesman said the association will underwrite one-year memberships for those selected. They will be listed as Honored Active Members on the association's roles.

SKOSHI TIGER CHIEF — Col. Frank N. Emory, USAF, heads Project Skoshi Tiger, an Air Force program comparing a small, relatively inexpensive fighter with more complex U.S. jets. The F-5 is used as a test vehicle in Vietnam operations.

Ft. Eustis School Expects 19,000 Students in FY67

The U.S. Army Transportation School, Ft. Eustis, Va., expects to train 19,000 students in various transportation skills during the next year. Twenty-one aviation maintenance courses will receive the majority of the students.

The school conducts fixed and rotary wing classes at Felker Army Airfield, Ft. Eustis, where the first of three new hangars has been completed. Students expected for the remainder of FY66 exceed 5,100, about 3,300 more than were anticipated before last year's buildup. The school's staff of 3,023 consists mostly of personnel returning from the RVN.

U.S., ROK Authorities Attempt Wire Loss Curb

U.S. Military and Republic of Korea police and legal authorities met at Camp Casey, Korea, Feb. 24, for the 12th formal meeting of the Joint Working Committee on Security of U.S.-ROK Military Installations.

Representatives discussed methods of dealing with the increasing theft of communications wire. During January 1966, $6,515 worth of wire was stolen.

The Republic of Korea has designated March 5 through 20 as a crackdown period on the theft of wire and communications equipment.

E-5 Rank Available For Practical Nurses

Army has stepped up its recruiting for qualified practical nurses offering E-5 appointment to those who complete the required in-service training.

Requirements are in AR 601-210. Additionally, graduation from a state aproved one year practical nursing course and current state licensure as a practical nurse is required.

Personnel who have already completed the prescribed training may receive direct appointment.

Others will be appointed to E-4 when beginning the technical training at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex. Those successfully completing the training will receive E-5 appointment.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mr. W. J. Abernethy appointed Director, Personnel Division, OASD (Administration). **Brig. Gen. Russell K. Pierce Jr., USAF,** AWS commander, promoted to present rank. Commander of Brooke General Hospital, **Brig. Gen. Robert L. Rhea Jr., USA,** promoted to present rank. **Mr. Charles F. Baird** sworn in as Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management. **Brig. Gen. Robert R. Williams, USA,** transferred to D.C. as Director, Army Aviation. **Brig. Gen. George P. Seneff Jr., USA,** takes command of U.S. Army Aviation Brigade, Vietnam. **Brig. Gen. Richard T. Cassidy, USA,** former CG, 32nd Artillery Brigade, reassigned as Commander, 2nd Region, U.S. Army Air Defense Command, Richards-Gebaur AFB, Mo. **Brig. Gen. M. D. Henderson, USMC,** transferred from FMFPac to HQMC.

CONTRACT AWARDS

U.S. Rubber Co., Mishawaka, Ind.: $5,778,814 fixed-price contract for 2,146 sets of nylon runway and taxiway surfacing membrane. **(DSA)**

FMC Corp., Charleston, W. Va.: $2,100,000 fixed-price contract for M113A1 vehicle spare parts. **(Army)**

Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc., Long Beach, Calif.: $2,019,000 modification to an existing contract for TA-4E aircraft. **(Navy)**

General Electric Co., Syracuse, N.Y.: $3,000,000 initial increment to a $4,456,840 contract for support services for USAF and NASA programs at Eastern and Western Test Ranges. **(Air Force)**